What is claimed is:

Sub a'>

1. A method of providing customers with marking stamps of the self-inker type comprising the steps of:

a) inputting type data to a computer; and

b) under computer control, using a laser engraver to engrave a blank die mounted on the platen of a single self-inker type marking stamp,

whereby a stamp can be finished in about five minutes.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein, in step a, said type data is input to said computer from remote locations.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein, in step a, said type data is input via the Internet.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein, in step a, said type data is input to said computer by a customer in a point-of-sale location whereby the customer can receive a finished stamp in about five minutes.

5. The method of claim 4, further comprising, after step a, the step of printing an index card whereby the customer can check the accuracy of the type data before step b is carried out.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said laser engraver comprises:

a) a laser translatable in a vertical direction;

b) a stamp holder carriage translatable in a horizontal direction; and

c) a controller connected to said computer.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said stamp holder carriage translator is adapted from an inkjet printer mechanism.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein said laser engraver comprises a prior art commercial laser engraver having in addition a multiple cavity fixture adapted to hold finished stamp mounts.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said multiple cavity fixture further comprises sensors disposed to indicate the presence and size of stamp mounts in each cavity.

10. The method of claim 9 wherein said sensors are laser sensors whereby a laser scan over said fixture can determine a distribution of mounts and their sizes in said fixture.

11. A method of providing customers with marking stamps of the self-inker type comprising the steps of:

a) inputting type data to a computer;

b) printing at least one photonegative and placing it in a single die cavity;

c) filling at least one single die cavity with a light curable photopolymer;

d) exposing said photopolymer through said photonegative to form a marking die; and

e) removing said marking die from said cavity and placing it on the platen of a self-inker stamp body,

whereby a stamp can be finished in about five minutes.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein, in step a, said type data is input to said computer over the Internet.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein, in step a, said type data is input to said computer by a customer in a point-of-sale location whereby the customer can receive a finished stamp in about five minutes.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising, after step a, the step of printing an index card whereby the customer can check the accuracy of the type data before step b is carried out.

15. The method of claim 11 wherein, in step b, two identical of said photonegatives are produced and superimposed to create a denser photonegative.

16. The method of claim 11 wherein, in step b, non-identical photonegatives are printed and placed in separate single die cavities.

17. The method of claim 11 further comprising the additional step, after step d, of pressing said marking die onto absorbent material to absorb uncured polymer.

18. The method of claim 11 wherein, in step e, an adhesive is used to cement said die to said platen.

19. The method of claim 11 wherein said single die cavity is formed with a disposable cavity plate.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein said disposable cavity plate comprises cardboard.